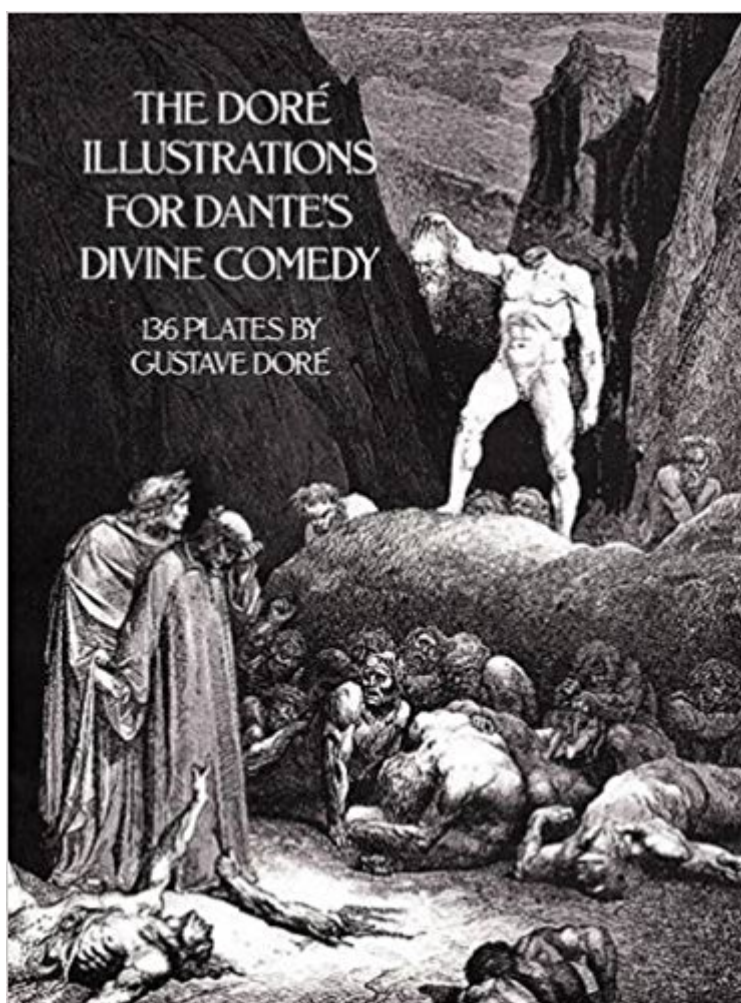


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# The Dore Illustrations For Dante's Divine Comedy (136 Plates By Gustave Dore)



## Synopsis

Gustave Doré (1832–83) was perhaps the most successful illustrator of the nineteenth century. His Doré Bible was a treasured possession in countless homes, and his best-received works continued to appear through the years in edition after edition. His illustrations for Dante's Divine Comedy constitute one of his most highly regarded efforts and were Doré's personal favorites. The present volume reproduces with excellent clarity all 135 plates that Doré produced for The Inferno, Purgatory, and Paradise. From the depths of hell onto the mountain of purgatory and up to the empyrean realms of paradise, Doré's illustrations depict the passion and grandeur of Dante's masterpiece in such famous scenes as the embarkation of the souls for hell, Paolo and Francesca (four plates), the forest of suicides, Thais the harlot, Bertram de Born holding his severed head aloft, Ugolino (four plates), the emergence of Dante and Virgil from hell, the ascent up the mountain, the flight of the eagle, Arachne, the lustful sinners being purged in the seventh circle, the appearance of Beatrice, the planet Mercury, and the first splendors of paradise, Christ on the cross, the stairway of Saturn, the final vision of the Queen of Heaven, and many more. Each plate is accompanied by appropriate lines from the Henry Wadsworth Longfellow translation of Dante's work.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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French illustrator Gustave Doré (1833-83) began his prolific career at the age of 15, and his dramatic engravings have exercised an incalculable influence over latter-day artists. The remarkable scope of his work ranges from Milton, Dante, and the Bible to Rabelais, Shakespeare, and street scenes of 19th-century London.

I was a little hesitant to order this based on the images shown in the "look inside" feature. However once getting the book in my hands I was quite pleased with the quality of them. The book is a great size, making the images clear and enjoyable to look at. I am considering the purchase of a second copy so I can frame some of the images.

This is an excellent book of engravings for Dante's Divine Comedy. They contain some sublime and surreal illustrations using usually a high chiascuro which lends a dark and forbidding atmosphere to the Inferno. Great stuff.

after looking at jpegs of these pictures for years its so nice to have a hard copy in front of me, does line work was just incredible, the printing on this version is beautiful, very very nice

Update: I'm upgrading my rating from 2-stars to 4-stars, because ... How can anybody rate Dore's fantastic imagery any less than 5-stars?? But I have to take a star off for the washed-out print

quality. Maybe it's just my copy, but the later prints in the book have that look like when the printer is running out of black ink. Original review: Dore's prints are outstanding, of course ... But the print quality of this collection is poor - all the prints are a fairly washed-out, low-contrast grey. The originals are much more dramatic, with high-contrast bold blacks and whites. I would be willing to pay more for a higher quality reproduction...

Although Dore's illustrations are available on-line, I like having a copy of the book to carry with me as I read through *The Divine Comedy*.

The images of an age of faith searching the heavens for truth. Before space ships we had imagination writ large from holy scripture.

Perhaps they already are! I recently had the opportunity to read Dante's *Divine Comedy* as part of a book discussion group. Given the number of cultural references to the work I've observed and used over my life (I even entitled a college dance party "The Inferno" many years ago because the dance floor was hot!), reading the work was on my "bucket list." Of course the language and descriptions were very thick in places, and having the Dore's book of illustrations really helped the story come to life as well as helped me to stay on track while reading. The illustrations are gorgeous, in many places gruesomely so, and really convey the torture or rapture of the characters depicted in the *Divine Comedy*. This book of illustrations is a must-have companion to the *Divine Comedy*, and is highly recommended!

Although just a man, the prolific career of Gustave Dore really has some divine inspiration. Perhaps that's one reason the church needed him so much - perhaps something really did reach out and whisper his name and someone listened. (Personally I hope that thing was Cthulhu and the dreams were bad, but that's just me) As far as this book goes, it is one of the easiest to gain entry into a very exciting world. I like the way the rendering are set to tell the story, too, allowing the reader to walk through some frightening gates and look into some of the terrible things that are described in a language that sometimes does seem heavy (Personal opinion and I don't mean offense by it). When I look at this, it reminds me of the journey that I took as a young adult while learning about all those names and faces that I didn't know. It also reminds me of everything from people with their bodies buried in the ground to one poor soul writhing as a half spider/half woman appeared on the ground. Dore is that kind of influence and I'm glad that someone granted me entry into this world because, if

they hadn't, I would have missed out on so much. So, brief, I have to say that this is well worth the price of admission and it is well worth obtaining so you can look at the detail and marvel at the tools being utilized. Also, look into the other books. The Bible, the Mad; Dore was inspired by everything. And that is inspiring, to say the least.

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